

may reduce the prevalence of asthma attacks but are not guaranteed to reduce the incidence of new cases of asthma. There is evidence that dust mites, cockroaches, cat dander, spores of the common airborne mold, and *Alternaria* (a type of fungus) play an important role. It seems reasonable to clean homes, workplaces, and schools to reduce exposure to these triggers. This may not prevent all asthma attacks, but it may lessen their frequency and/or severity;

Asthma is a very manageable disease. Much of the current morbidity and mortality is avoidable;

Many asthmatics and their doctors do not take the disease as seriously as they should; Clinical guidelines for asthma treatment need to be followed;

Better disease management is the strategy most likely to yield benefits for asthmatics at this time. Better disease management will result from specific programs to educate physicians and patients along with programs to ensure better access to care for all asthmatics.

IN HONOR OF DR. LUTHER
BLACKWELL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop Luther Blackwell and to celebrate his half century of service to his church, his faith, and the greater Cleveland community.

Mr. Speaker, the ministry of Dr. Luther Blackwell, senior pastor of Mega Church in Cleveland, Ohio, is known throughout the world. Dr. Blackwell has spent his career traveling extensively as a lecturer, teacher, and guest speaker. He has been featured in some of the country's most prestigious and life-changing spiritual conferences, sharing his knowledge and faith to help bring positive change to the lives of thousands.

Dr. Blackwell has had a very distinguished and proud career. After graduating with a Bachelors Degree in Music Education from the Conservatory of Music at Baldwin Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, Dr. Blackwell went on to teach for four years in the Cleveland Public School System. There, he received numerous awards for his service, including be honored as one of Cleveland's finest teachers. Dr. Blackwell has also received his Masters and Doctor Degrees of Biblical Studies from Christian Leadership University in Elma, New York, as well as a Doctor of Ministry from Vision Christian College in Romona, California.

Dr. Blackwell faithfully served fifteen years as Vice President of the International Congress of Local Churches, and most recently held seminars on the Biblical application of money and on the Black believer.

Mr. Speaker, of Dr. Blackwell's numerous outstanding accomplishments I would like to specially honor the ten year anniversary of Dr. Blackwell's founding of the Mega Church in Cleveland, Ohio. The Mega Church has been among the national leaders in the area of racial reconciliation, demonstrating the ability of using faith to bring people of different races and cultures together.

Dr. Blackwell represents the very best of Cleveland, and his long and very distinguished career deserves the highest of praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in rising to honor this truly remarkable man, and his half century of service to his fellow man. Dubbed the pastor's pastor, Dr. Blackwell is a man of the highest standing and an example for all to follow.

ARRIVAL IN U.S. OF TAIWANESE
PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as Republic of China President Chen Shui-bian reaches his first anniversary in office, I would like to commend him for his successful leadership and steadiness of purpose. President Chen has expertly handled cross-strait relations due in part to his emphasis on the formation of mutual trust between Taipei and Beijing through economic and cultural integration. President Chen recently expressed his vision for a lasting peace with the mainland by noting the importance of ensuring channels of communication. "I understand that only through resumption of constructive cross-strait dialogue and normalization of bilateral relations can permanent regional peace be ensured."

President Chen's leadership within the Republic of China exemplifies a record of which he should be proud. He presides over a democracy characterized by free and fair elections, a free press, and an unquestioned respect for human rights and the rule of law. Yet President Chen's capacity to guide economic success is as strong as his commitment to democratic values. The 5.25% growth forecast for the ROC economy in 2001 is higher than that of the U.S., Japan, Germany, or the U.K., and the ROC enjoys a lower level of unemployment than each one of the aforementioned economic powerhouses.

I am delighted that President Chen will have the opportunity to make two transit stops in the U.S. and to meet with Members of Congress during his upcoming visit to the Americas. Secretary Powell's spokesperson noted that such meetings "would be a good thing," and I could not agree more. This will be an important visit for President Chen and for the U.S.—the first time a Taiwanese leader has been permitted to stopover in New York. I hope President Chen's transit visit brings fruitful discussions with my colleagues as well as a chance to enjoy the Texas steakhouse, baseball game, and New York museum on his agenda. Most importantly, I hope President Chen's transit visit signals the strong ties and friendship between the U.S. and the Republic of China.

INTRODUCTION OF MAERSK Mc-
KINNEY MOLLER

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a great leader in the maritime community, Maersk Mc-Kinney Moller, owner of the A.P. Moller Group—a

global transportation provider whose fleet of ships make it the world's largest shipping company and also the largest US-flag carrier. When Germany invaded Denmark in 1940, the company's fleet numbered 46 ships and many of those vessels were used by the United States and its allies during WWII. Maersk Moller and his wife spent the war years in the United States. After almost eight years in America, Maersk Moller and his father faced the daunting challenge of rebuilding their company. A number of ships were purchased from the United States government and slowly the company was rebuilt. A.P. Moller has made significant contributions to the U.S. economy over the years. The company's United States headquarters was founded in 1943, and in 1947 a notable affiliate—Maersk Line, Limited—was chartered in Delaware. Today Maersk has 10 United States corporate entities devoted to terminal operations, trucking, rail transportation, and third party logistics and it generates employment for approximately 9000 Americans. Maersk serves more than 30,000 US exporters and importers dedicated to international trade. Today A.P. Moller is the largest carrier in the world. It operates approximately 250 ships including container vessels, tankers, bulk carriers, supply ships, car carriers, and drilling rigs. 53 of these ships fly the Stars and Stripes and are owned, operated or chartered by Maersk Line, Limited. It is the largest U.S. flag carriers serving the foreign trades of the United States. Allow me to recognize some other important contributions. Maersk Line, Limited ships were the first vessels to arrive in Desert Storm and off-load critically needed Marine Corps supplies and equipment. Space on Maersk commercial ships was provided free of charge to the U.S. government so we could load much needed supplies for our troops during the sustainment phase of the operation. Prior to Desert Storm, Maersk Line, Limited obtained a secret clearance from the Department of Defense and now has a top-secret clearance to operate ships for the U.S. Navy. This important mission and valuable program continues today.

Mr. Speaker, I am very interested in strengthening a cost effective U.S.-flag fleet that is dedicated to the foreign commerce of the United States. The Maritime Security Program (MSP) will soon have to be reauthorized for our nation to maintain a U.S.-flag presence. It is important to recognize that during a contingency, companies participating in MSP like Maersk Line, Limited are contractually obligated to the statutorily mandated Voluntary Intennodal Sealift Agreement (VISA). Combined, Maersk and other U.S. vessels provide the intennodal infrastructure that includes terminal, truck, rail and sealift capacity the Department of Defense (DOD) would rely on to lift critically important military equipment during a conflict. Without the MSP it would cost the taxpayers billions of dollars in DOD spending to replicate what MSP carriers, like Maersk, provide. A strong, competitive commercial U.S.-flag presence in international trade is therefore vitally important. It is important we recognize that in order to maintain a strong, reliable and available fleet of MSP vessels the program must understand and meet carrier operating costs. It should be indexed to keep abreast of inflation and we should make sure that MSP benefits flow to the U.S. corporate citizen providing VISA assets to our military. I look forward to working with my colleagues